

“(G) such other standards as the State finds to be appropriate.

“(12) STATE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The State plan shall—

“(i) ensure that individual providers are achieving results in advancing the knowledge and behaviors identified by the State as prerequisites for kindergarten success; and

“(ii) specify the measures the State will use to evaluate the progress toward achieving such results and the effectiveness of the State program under this section, and of individual providers in such program.

“(B) PUBLICATION OF RESULTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the results shall be made publicly available in the communities served by the program.

“(ii) CONFIDENTIALITY SAFEGUARDS.—The system shall have in effect privacy safeguards ensuring that information on children included in data and results made public in accordance with clause (i) shall be in aggregated form, and shall not include information allowing identification of individual children.

“(13) TRANSITION PLAN.—The initial State plan shall make provision for transition from the direct Federal program under section 640 to the demonstration program.

“(14) COOPERATION WITH RESEARCH STUDIES.—The plan shall provide assurances that the State will cooperate with research activities described in section 649.

“(15) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—The State plan shall—

“(A) contain a commitment to provide data, at such times and in such format as the Secretary requires, concerning non-Federal expenditures and numbers of children and families served in preschool and Head Start programs during the base year and each fiscal year covered under the State plan, sufficient to satisfy the Secretary that the State program will meet its obligation with respect to the maintenance of effort requirement under subparagraph (B); and

“(B) assure that the resources (which may be cash or in-kind) contributed by the State government to child care for preschool-aged children and other preschool programs, including Head Start, in the State (or, if applicable, in the geographic area included in the State program) for each fiscal year in which the program under this section is in effect shall be in an amount at least equal to the total amount of such State governmental resources contributed to support such programs in the State (or geographic area) for the base year.

“(16) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The State plan shall describe the training and technical assistance activities that shall provide high quality, sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused training and technical assistance in order to have a positive and lasting impact on classroom instruction.

“(i) RECORDS, REPORTS AND AUDITS.—The State agency administering the State program, and each entity participating as a Head Start service provider, shall maintain such records, make such reports, and cooperate with such audits as the Secretary may require for oversight of program activities and expenditures.

“(j) INAPPLICABILITY OF PROVISIONS CONCERNING PRIORITY IN AGENCY DESIGNATION.—The provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of section 641 (concerning priority in designation of Head Start agencies, successor agencies, and delegate agencies) shall not apply to a State program under this section.

“(k) CONSULTATION.—A State proposing to administer a program under this section shall submit, with the plan under this section, assurances that the plan was developed through timely and meaningful consultation

with appropriate public and private sector entities, including—

“(1) representatives of agencies responsible for administering early education and care programs in the State, including Head Start providers;

“(2) parents;

“(3) the State educational agency and local educational agencies;

“(4) early childhood education professionals;

“(5) kindergarten teachers and teachers in grades 1 through 4;

“(6) child welfare agencies;

“(7) child care resource and referral agencies;

“(8) child care providers; and

“(9) a wide array of persons interested in and involved with early care and early education issues in the State, such as representatives of—

“(A) health care professionals;

“(B) the State agency with responsibility for the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966;

“(C) institutions of higher education;

“(D) community-based and faith-based organizations;

“(E) the business community;

“(F) State legislators and local officials;

“(G) museums and libraries;

“(H) other relevant entities in the State; and

“(I) other agencies that provide resources for young children.

“(1) STATE PLAN SUBMISSION.—An application shall be submitted by a State pursuant to this section to the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, and shall be deemed to be approved by the Secretary unless the Secretary makes a written determination, prior to the expiration of a reasonable time beginning on the date on which the Secretary received the application, that the application is not in compliance with this section.

“(m) TREATMENT OF FUNDS.—If a State or local government contributes its own funds to supplement activities carried out under the applicable programs, the State or local government has the option to separate out the Federal funds or commingle them. If the funds are commingled, the provisions of this subchapter shall apply to all of the commingled funds in the same manner, and to the same extent, as the provisions apply to the Federal funds.

“(n) FEDERAL OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY; CORRECTIVE ACTION; WITHDRAWAL OF APPROVAL.—

“(1) FEDERAL OVERSIGHT.—The Secretary shall retain the authority to oversee the operation of the State program under this section, including through review of records and reports, audits, and onsite inspection of records and facilities and monitoring of program activities and operations.

“(2) CORRECTION OF DEFICIENCIES.—If the Secretary determines that a State program under this section substantially fails to meet the requirements of this section, the Secretary shall notify the State of the deficiencies identified and require corrective action as follows:

“(A) DEFICIENCIES CAUSING IMMEDIATE JEOPARDY.—The Secretary shall require immediate corrective action to eliminate a deficiency that the Secretary finds threatens the health or safety of staff or program participants or poses a threat to the integrity of Federal funds.

“(B) OTHER DEFICIENCIES.—The Secretary, taking into consideration the nature and magnitude of a deficiency not described in subparagraph (A), and the time reasonably required for correction, may—

“(i) require the State to correct the deficiency within 90 days after notification under this paragraph; or

“(ii) require the State to implement a quality improvement plan designed to correct the deficiency within one year from identification of the deficiency.

“(3) WITHDRAWAL OF APPROVAL.—If the deficiencies identified under paragraph (2) are not corrected by the deadlines established by the Secretary, the Secretary shall initiate proceedings to withdraw approval of the State program under this section.

“(4) PROCEDURAL RIGHTS.—A State subject to adverse action under this subsection shall have the same procedural rights as a Head Start agency subject to adverse action under section 641A.

“(o) INDEPENDENT EVALUATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall contract with an independent organization outside of the Department to design and conduct a multi-year, rigorous, scientifically valid, quantitative evaluation of the State demonstration program.

“(2) PROCESS.—The Secretary shall award a contract within 180 days of the date of enactment of the Improving Head Start Act of 2007, to an organization that is capable of designing and carrying out an independent evaluation described in this subsection.

“(3) ANALYSIS.—The evaluation shall include an analysis of each State participating in the State demonstration program, including—

“(A) A quantitative description of the State prekindergarten program and Head Start programs within such State, as such programs existed prior to participation in the State demonstration program, including:

“(i) data on the characteristics of the children served, including the overall number and percentages of children served disaggregated by socioeconomic status, race and ethnicity of those served;

“(ii) the quality and characteristics of the services provided to such children; and

“(iii) the education attainment of instructional staff.

“(B) A quantitative and qualitative description of the State program after each year of participation in the State demonstration, which shall include each of the following:

“(i) A description of changes in the administration of the State program, including the Head Start program, within such State.

“(ii) The rate of progress of the State in improving the school readiness of disadvantaged children in the key domains of development.

“(iii) Data as described in subparagraph (A), as updated annually.

“(iv) The extent to which each State has met the goals established by such State with respect to annual goals as described under section 643(h)(10).

“(4) REPORT.—(A) The Secretary shall provide an interim report on the progress of such evaluation and of the progress of States participating in the State demonstration in increasing the availability of high quality prekindergarten services for low-income children not later than October 1, 2010 to the Committee on Education and the Workforce in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions in the Senate.

“(B) The Secretary shall provide a final report to the Committee on Education and the Workforce in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions in the Senate, not later than October 1, 2011, which shall include an overall evaluation of the State demonstration program, including an assessment of its success in increasing the overall availability of high quality prekindergarten services for